

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 15400 150758Z

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 INT-05 /024 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4941

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PLEASE PASS TO DEPT OF COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, EMIN, ID

SUBJECT: GOI REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON URANIUM MINING COSTS

REF: SOEDARSONO/IFSHIN MEMCON OCTOBER 6, 1977

1. AS REPORTED REF MEMCON,GOI IS CURRENTLY IN EARLY STAGES OF FORMULATING POLICY REGARDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXPLOITATION OF URANIUM DEPOSITS. PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH FRENCH GOVERNMENT AGENCY, COMMISSION DE L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE (CEA), WHICH IS COOPERATING WITH GOI IN EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN WEST KALIMANTAN, ARE EXPECTED TO BE HELD IN NEXT FEW MONTHS. IN PREPARATION FOR THESE TALKS GOI DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE OFFICIAL HAS REQUESTED OUR ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING INFORMATION REGARDING COSTS INVOLVED IN MINING URANIUM ORE AND PROCESSING IT TO PRODUCE ONE TONE OF YELLOW CAKE.

2. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO GIVE EVEN AN APPROXIMATE FIGURE WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT KINDS OF ROCKS WOULD HAVE TO BE MINED THROUGH TO GET TO URANIUM (INDONESIA'S WEST KALIMANTAN URANIUM ORE IS KNOWN TO BE VEIN TYPE, UNDERGROUND), THE GRADE OF THE ORE, WHAT OTHER MINERALS WERE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ORE, ETC. GOI OFFICIAL RESPONDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THESE PROBLEMS, BUT EVEN BROAD RANGE
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OF FIGURES SHOWING APPROXIMATE RANGE OF OPERATING COSTS OF URANIUM MINES IN WYOMING AND NEW MEXICO AND NOT INCLUDING AMORTIZATION AND DEPRECIATION, WOULD BE HELPFUL TO GOI IN DISCUSSIONS WITH DEA.

3. OFFICIAL ALSO ASKED FOR INFORMATION REGARDING SOURCES OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT (EXCLUSIVE OF FRANCE) FOR MINING AND

PROCESSING OF HARD ROCK URANIUM ORE.

4. WE WOULD LIKE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO BOTH THESE
REQUESTS. IF IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ANSWER THE FIRST
QUESTION WITHOUT MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE INFORM US AS
TO WHAT INFORMATION IS REQUIRED. (FYI: AGREEMENT BETWEEN
GOI AND GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE REQUIRES THAT BOTH SIDES
TREAT DATA ON URANIUM EXPLORATION AS CONFIDENTIAL.)
RIVES

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